

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a variant archaeal DNA polymerase having a modified amino acid sequence of a wild-type amino acid sequence, the modified sequence being in the amino-terminal amino acids that comprise a uracil-binding pocket in the wild-type polymerase whereby the variant polymerase has reduced affinity for uracil than the wild-type polymerase. Such variant polymerases may be usefully employed in biological assay systems such as the polymerase chain reaction.